

Salisbury, North Carolina
April 6, 2021

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Karen K. Alexander, Presiding; Mayor Pro Tem Al Heggins, Council Members William Brian Miller, and David Post; City Manager W. Lane Bailey, City Clerk Kelly Baker; and City Attorney J. Graham Corriher.

ABSENT: Councilmember Tamara Sheffield.

In response to the State of Emergency declaration related to the spread of COVID-19 and to limit physical interactions and the potential spread of COVID-19 the Salisbury City Council met electronically. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Alexander at 6:00 p.m. A moment of silence was taken.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Alexander led participants in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

RECOGNITION OF VIEWERS

Mayor Alexander welcomed all viewers.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to adopt the Agenda as presented. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Mayor Pro Tem voted AYE, Councilmember Miller voted AYE, and Councilmember Post voted AYE. (4-0)

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Alexander proclaimed the following observances:

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK	April 18 – 24, 2021
FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH	April 2021
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH	April 2021
AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH	April 2021
FAIR HOUSING MONTH	April 2021

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Minutes

Adopt Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 16, 2021.

(b) 300 Block of Harrell Street

Receive a petition and adopt a Resolution declaring the City's intent to close a 20-foot unimproved right-of-way located in the 300 block of Harrell Street and setting a public hearing for May 4, 2021.

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE CITY'S INTENT TO CLOSE A 20-FOOT UNIMPROVED RIGHT-OFWAY LOCATED IN THE 300 BLOCK OF HARRELL STREET.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 16 at Page No. 5, and is known as Resolution 2021-05.)

(c) Sole Source Purchase Carter Pump

Authorize a sole source purchase from Carter Pump in the amount of \$9,010 for sludge pump replacement parts. Funds for this purchase are included in the adopted FY2020-2021 budget.

(d) Sole Source Purchase – ForTech, Inc.

Authorize a sole source purchase from ForTech, Inc. in the amount of \$88,930 for materials and services associated with the control logic and integration of the chemical feed improvements at the water treatment plant. Funds for this purchase are included in the adopted FY2020-2021 budget.

(e) Operation Hope Partnership

Endorse partnering with Operation Hope to engage community partners for the 1MBB initiative.

(f) Easement to Rowan County

Authorize the Mayor to execute an easement to Rowan County for a Chemical Booster Station to serve the North East Water System.

Mayor Alexander commented Councilmember Post requested item (e) regarding the Operation Hope Partnership be removed from the Consent Agenda and added to Agenda Item 16 - Mayor's Announcement and Comments.

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to adopt the Consent Agenda with the presented changes. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins voted AYE, Councilmember Miller voted AYE, and Councilmember Post voted AYE. (4-0)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Alexander opened the floor to receive public comments.

Mr. Walter Vaughn suggested the law regarding campers and boats being parked in the front yard or on the road be reviewed. He also commented that a leak he noticed about a year ago on Ashbrook Road at West Cliff needed to be addressed.

There being no one else to address Council, Mayor Alexander closed the public comment session.

LAND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT MAP AMENDMENT CD-01-2021

Development Services Manager Teresa Barringer addressed Council regarding Land Development District Map Amendment CD-01-2021. She noted the request is to rezone 9.227 acres, tax map 061 parcel 07, located in the vicinity of Jake Alexander Boulevard and South Main Street from Residential Mixed Use (RMX) and Highway Business (HB) and remove the existing General Development Overlay to RMX and establish a Conditional District (CD) Overlay to permit an 84-unit multi-family development.

Ms. Barringer stated the proposed development is known as Salisbury Oaks Apartments. She explained the petition is to rezone the current base district from RMX and HB to RMX. She added the rezoning would also remove the existing General Development Overlay and establish a new CD Overlay to allow for construction of an 84-unit campus style multi-family development. She shared views of the property.

Ms. Barringer pointed out the proposal includes a driveway off of South Main Street with an added sidewalk and improvements on the right-of-way. She added the South Main Street entrance is approximately 25 feet wide and narrows to approximately 20.5 feet at the apartment complex entrance. She added the developer has proposed to improve the non-approved cul-de-sac off of Rosemont Street and dedicate it to the City. She noted due to the resident's concerns of

increased traffic, the developer has proposed a locked gate at the entrance of Rosemont Street that would only allow emergency vehicle access.

Ms. Barringer reviewed information regarding the proposal which includes landscape design, and four apartment buildings with a mix of one, two and three bedroom units. She commented the apartment complex will be for low income residents, will include a community building, covered picnic areas and a playground area.

Ms. Barringer stated this proposal meets the vision 2020 Policies:

- Policy N-16 – New neighborhoods should include one or more neighborhood centers or focal points in each neighborhood planning area.
- Policy N-18 – As new neighborhoods are developed, a mixture of housing types/sizes/prices shall be encouraged within the bounds of each neighborhood planning area.
- Policy N-19 – Higher density housing projects, such as apartment complexes and condominium developments, should be located adjoining places of work, shopping, and public transit. Access to such higher density housing shall not be through a lower density housing area. Higher density housing may often act as a transitional use between offices or shops and lower density housing

Ms. Barringer noted the Planning Board held a courtesy hearing March 9, 2021 and voted unanimously to recommend approval.

Councilmember Post asked if the entrance is sufficient for the traffic of an 84-unit development. Ms. Barringer noted it was discussed by staff, and those widths work on other city streets. She added the developer is in negotiations with the adjacent property owner to obtain property on the left side of the drive to provide sidewalk connection and driveway improvements. She pointed out staff has verified there are no concerns with the Fire Marshal's office and no issues with emergency vehicle access.

Councilmember Post asked if a stop light will be installed, and he noted his concern of traffic congestion and emergency vehicle access. Ms. Barringer explained no stop light provisions have been required by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), and she added no stop light improvements are being proposed by the developer.

Councilmember Miller asked about the landscape requirements. Ms. Barringer commented the landscape rendering meets the provisions of the Code, and she added the final landscape review and approval will occur during the construction review.

Councilmember Miller stated there could be a problem with drivers going around the locked gate at the Rosemont Street entrance, and he asked if there is a provision in the CD Overlay to keep that from happening. Ms. Barringer noted Council can add conditions to identify minimal standards of the gate.

b) Mayor Alexander convened a public hearing, after due notice thereof, to receive comments regarding CD-01-2021.

Mr. Victor Wallace pointed out his father Mr. Leo Wallace helped develop the Rosemont Street community and built most of the houses in that area. He noted he advocates for affordable housing, but he mentioned his concerns of the CMX zoning. He added he is in favor of the proposed project.

Ms. Cassie Cunningham noted the developer has proposed a locked gate to be used by emergency vehicles, and has agreed to fence the boundary to prevent vehicle passage beside the gate. She pointed out only trucks necessary for constructing the turnaround circle are permitted to use Rosemont Street and the speed limit of 25 MPH must be observed. She added she was told the sidewalk would lead to South Main Street and not to Rosemont Street. She noted the developer has guaranteed the retention pond would only be permitted for a maximum of 24 hours, and she added if natural planting is not available a fence will be provided.

Ms. Traci Dusenbury, owner of Halcon Development, stated the proposal is for 84-units and will cost \$13.7 million. She pointed out upon reaching out to the community, they found about 90% of the conversation was regarding the traffic concerns on Rosemont Street. She reiterated there will be a gate for emergency vehicle access only, and they are willing to place a fence on either side if needed. She also noted there are plans to improve and widen the entrance off of South Main Street.

Mr. Matt Lowder commented he is the project engineer working with Halcon Development, LLC. He thanked staff for working with them and he thanked the adjacent neighbors. He noted the gate would be placed as needed to keep vehicles from entering Rosemont Street. He added the stormwater will have a retention pond and would not have a permeant pool.

There being no one else to address Council, Mayor Alexander closed the public hearing and indicated comments regarding CD-01-2021 will be accepted for 24 hours from the close of the public hearing.

Councilmember Miller asked Ms. Barringer to address Ms. Cunningham's question regarding the sidewalk to Rosemont Street. Ms. Barringer noted two options were presented and the ideal solution would be for access solely from South Main Street, so the Rosemont Street connection sidewalk would be removed from the plans. Councilmember Miller asked what was approved. Ms. Barringer noted Planning Board approved both options and final determination would happen prior to construction plan approval and based off of any conditions Council may request.

Councilmember Miller commented the retention pond is to reduce the flow of stormwater, Ms. Barringer agreed, and she noted it will collect the run off that will drain in that direction and is designed to drain in a consistent manner.

Councilmember Miller asked if the CD will still exist if financing for the project is unsuccessful. Ms. Barringer agreed, and she noted the approval would be vested for two years and

if the developer has not obtained the financing necessary, it can be requested for a two year extension. Councilmember Miller commented the developer could not develop the property in a different way until they came back to Council. Ms. Barringer agreed.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins requested the issues regarding the sidewalk be clarified. Ms. Barringer noted the citizens she spoke with had concerns regarding additional foot traffic in the Rosemont Street neighborhood. She added residents do not want to see an increase in such activity on the quiet street.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins asked what will happen if families decide to go walking in the Rosemont community even though there is not a sidewalk. Ms. Barringer noted there should be no issues, and she added citizens have the right to access a public right-of-way whether they live on that street or not. She noted encouraging the connection to Rosemont Street was a concern, but if neighbors decide to walk down Rosemont Street to access the shops on Jake Alexander Boulevard they have the right to so.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins noted if the apartments are for housing low income families then there is a probability those residents will have to walk to access the shopping center. Ms. Barringer agreed. Mayor Pro Tem Heggins indicated more conversation is needed regarding the sidewalk concern of the Rosemont Street residents, and she noted it is important to not take away safe access to the shopping center. Ms. Barringer noted the sidewalk going to the cul-de-sac would be a small portion of sidewalk, and without sidewalks on Rosemont Street residents would have to travel down the road itself to access the shopping area.

Councilmember Post asked about the sidewalk proposal. Ms. Barringer stated the sidewalk would be located along the entrance from South Main Street, and she mentioned the transit stop is located in the 1900 block of South Main Street. She added negotiations are taking place with the neighboring property owner to obtain the extra property for sidewalk.

Councilmember Miller commented he thinks the location is an appropriate place and there is a need for a multifamily development. He commented he is in favor when the project comes back to Council for a vote.

LAND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT MAP AMENDMENT CD-02-2021

Development Services Manager Teresa Barringer addressed Council regarding Land Development District Map Amendment CD-02-2021. She noted the request is to rezone 6.137 acres located in the 100 block of Brenner Avenue, tax map 062 and parcels 055 and 065, to maintain the underlying Corridor Mixed-Use (CMX) zoning, remove the existing, expired Conditional District (CD) Overlay and establish a new CD Overlay to permit an 84-unit multi-family development.

Ms. Barringer indicated the proposed development is known as Tenby Crossing Apartments. She explained the proposal is to maintain current base district of CMX which permits multi-family residential by-right with maximum 18 dwelling units per acre. She noted the proposal

is to remove a previously approved and expired CD Overlay and establish a new CD Overlay to allow for construction of an 84-unit campus style multi-family development.

Ms. Barringer pointed out the proposed development location off of Brenner Avenue. She noted the original proposal had two egress and ingress points, and she noted a third egress and ingress point was requested during the Planning Board meeting due to the traffic congestion on Brenner Avenue. She explained the development site plan includes three apartment buildings, a clubhouse, playground, covered picnic area, and dumpster area. She noted landscape rendering information for Milford Hills Road and Brenner Avenue, and she noted site, building information and design.

Ms. Barringer commented this proposal meets the Vision 2020 Policies:

- Vision Statement Housing – We see a multitude of housing choices, ranging from single-family homes, to townhouses, to garage apartments over downtown shops or the neighborhood corner store. We see neighborhoods with several different well-designed housing types for all incomes where the elderly, young families, singles and others share experiences and help one another.
- Policy N-18 – As new neighborhoods are developed, a mixture of housing types/sizes/prices shall be encouraged within the bounds of each neighborhood planning area.
- Policy N-19 – Higher density housing projects, such as apartment complexes and condominium developments, should be located adjoining places of work, shopping, and public transit. Access to such higher density housing shall not be through a lower density housing area. Higher density housing may often act as a transitional use between offices or shops and lower density housing.

Ms. Barringer noted the Planning Board held a courtesy hearing March 9, 2021 and voted unanimously to recommend approval subject to adding at least one connection to Milford Hills Road.

b) Mayor Alexander convened a public hearing, after due notice thereof, to receive comments regarding CD-02-2021.

Mr. Stephen Brock thanked Ms. Barringer for her guidance and communicating the proposed project to Council, and he added she has been very courteous, organized, knowledgeable, and an ambassador for the City. He indicated plans include taking ownership of the internal drive and the existing ponds. He commented there are residents in Salisbury that need housing. Ms. Barringer noted a concern that came up with the Planning Board regarded traffic, so the developer added another point of egress and ingress.

Ms. Pamela Jones noted there are not many houses on Milford Hills Road. She pointed out it takes a while for her to turn left off of Milford Hills Road due to the Brenner Avenue traffic. She stated the retention pond is always full, the street needs to be paved and sidewalks need to be installed for those waking their dogs, or walking the greenway that extends there.

There being no one else to address Council, Mayor Alexander closed the public hearing and indicated comments regarding CD-02-2021 will be accepted for 24 hours from the close of the public hearing.

Councilmember Miller asked what needed to take place for a traffic light to be placed at Milford Hills and Brenner Avenue. Engineering Director Wendy Brindle commented a traffic analysis would have to be conducted and consideration given to development of the property.

Councilmember Miller suggested a right turn only lane coming out of the shopping areas or the installation of a turning lane. Ms. Brindle noted the area would function better with a regular street driveway and a turn lane could be considered. Councilmember Miller pointed out the area is congested in both the morning and evening. Ms. Brindle noted it is also congested during peak hours. Councilmember Miller stated there are peak hour and sight distance issues. He reiterated his concerns of the traffic and the proposed sidewalk crossing, and he suggested it be part of the developer's plan to correct the situation. Mayor Pro Tem Heggins agreed.

Councilmember Post agreed something needs to be done about safety in the area. He commented Milford Hills Road is torn up from the construction off of Brenner Avenue. He also pointed out another developer was supposed to place a barrier tree line, but it did not happen, so he is glad the developer is going to place the tree barrier on Milford Hills Road.

Mayor Alexander agreed with Council, and she noted there is a need for sidewalk and parking consideration on Milford Hills Road.

Councilmember Miller asked about the sidewalk payment-in-lieu. Ms. Barringer commented the developer would like payment-in-lieu instead of a sidewalk installation along the boundary of Milford Hills Road. Councilmember Miller noted he was not aware the greenway terminated at the end of the street, and he thinks sidewalks are needed in the area. Mayor Alexander agreed, and she noted if their choice is to pay-in-lieu, perhaps those funds can be matched by grants to install the sidewalks and repair the street at the same time.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins suggested there be connectivity with the sidewalk to the greenway and flashing lights at the crosswalk over to Brenner Avenue. Councilmember Miller agreed.

Councilmember Miller asked if this is the time Council needs to make the requirement of a turn lane. Ms. Brindle agreed, and she pointed out Council could propose a traffic study take place regarding the traffic patterns in that area.

Mayor Alexander asked what will take place next. Ms. Barringer stated she will provide Council's requests to the developer for a revised plan to be submitted prior to the next Council meeting. She reviewed Council's requests for the sidewalk instead of payment-in-lieu, removing sidewalks from the center part of Brenner Avenue, and extending the sidewalk to Milford Hills Road. Councilmember Miller suggested a crosswalk be marked at Milford Hills Road crossing Brenner Avenue. Mayor Pro Tem Heggins suggested flashing lights be included at the crosswalk.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT – CORONAVIRUS FUNDING

Housing Planner Candace Edwards noted in the spring of 2020 the City received \$168,950 in Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funding through the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). She pointed out 100% of the funds were allocated for public service agencies serving low income individuals and families.

Ms. Edwards explained in September 2020 the City was notified it would receive a second allotment of CDBG-CV funding in the amount of \$200,221. She added Council allocated \$50,000 to assist public service agencies helping residents prepare for, respond to, and plan for the Coronavirus pandemic.

Ms. Edwards reviewed a time line for the funds, and she indicated a public hearing was held December 1, 2020 to gather public input. She added the draft budget and action plan was presented to Council at its January 5, 2021 meeting. She noted staff received 34 applications requesting approximately \$375,000 in funding. She stated the applications were reviewed by a staff panel who recommends the following agencies for funding:

- Applesed Early Childhood Education - \$5,000
- Happy Roots - \$3,500
- Partners in Learning - \$ 5,000
- Pedal Factory - \$3,500
- Prevent Child Abuse Rowan - \$5000
- S&H Youth and Adult Services - \$9,000
- Bridge 4 Kids - \$3,000
- Piedmont Players Theatre, Inc. - \$5,000
- Abundant Living Adult Day Services, Inc. (Trinity Living) - \$2,500
- Thelma Smith Foundation South Branch - \$2,500
- Triple Threat Dance & Charm Performing Arts Virtual Academy - \$4,000
- Rowan Cabarrus YMCA - \$7,000

Ms. Edwards noted staff recommends \$55,000 be allocated to the public service agencies, and she explained the recommendation includes \$5,000 that was left over from the first round of CDBG-CV funding received.

Councilmember Post asked about the funding proposed for the Rowan-Cabarrus YMCA. Ms. Edwards explained the funds will go to the local YMCA branch to serve local citizens.

Councilmember Post stated Friends of Rowan matches funds that are donated to various local agencies including Partners in Learning, the JF Hurley YMCA, and possibly Abundant Living Adult Day Services, Inc. He noted if the funds for those agencies could be sent to Friends of Rowan on their behalf the funds would be doubled. City Attorney Graham Corriher stated he will speak with Ms. Edwards regarding the terms of the grant agreement.

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins made a **motion** to authorize the recommendations for use of Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus funding for community service agencies to assist low income individuals and families. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins voted AYE, Councilmember Miller voted AYE, and Councilmember Post voted AYE. (4-0)

SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE – BADGER METER, INC.

Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) Director Jim Behmer and Assistant Utilities Director Jason Wilson addressed Council regarding a sole source purchase from Badger Meter, Inc. Mr. Wilson explained Council authorized SRU’s Advanced Metering Implementation Project in 2016 for \$7.2 million. He noted the project implementation cost approximately \$1 million less than anticipated. He noted when the meter replacement was completed in 2019 staff provided an update to Council. He indicated at that time there were 21,306 water meters in operation, and an average increase of 4.2% in meter consumption based on more accurate water meters.

Mr. Wilson explained 3G networks will most likely shut down in 2022. He added SRU currently uses Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) cellular endpoints that need to be updated to Long Term Evolution-Machine (LTE-M) cellular endpoints. He stated CDMA endpoints which operate on 3G networks provide once a day 24-hour reads for each meter in the system. He indicated LTE-M cellular endpoints will operate on M2M cellular networks and offer 15-minute data intervals that will call in four times a day to provide more data for SRU and its customers. He pointed out the LTE-M endpoints offer a 20-year material and workmanship warranty and a 20-year guarantee of network performance.

Mr. Wilson indicated SRU needs to upgrade approximately 19,000 remaining CDMA cellular endpoints and Badger Meter, Inc. has offered the endpoints at a discounted rate of \$42.50 each. He noted 11,169 of the endpoints will be covered by a guarantee of network performance at no cost to the City. He stated staff recommends approving an extended warranty on the 11,169 endpoints SRU currently has and the proposed LTE-M endpoints:

Description	Estimated Quantity	Unit Price	Total Price
Orion Cellular LTE-M endpoints/Nicor connectors	6,065	\$42.50	\$257,762.50
Orion Cellular LTE-M Endpoints//308 connectors	1,099	\$42.50	\$46,707.50
Guarantee of Network Performance Replacements	11,169	\$0	\$0
Extended Warranty	11,169	\$25	\$279,225.00
LTE-M Installation	18,833	\$22	\$414,326.00
Estimated Total Mass Endpoint Change-out Cost			\$998,021.00

Mr. Wilson stated staff is requesting Council consider authorizing a sole source purchase and Fund Balance appropriation for up to \$1 million to provide funding for the endpoints, the warranties, and a future contract with a private installer to change the endpoints.

Councilmember Miller asked if staff is confident the endpoints will last 20 years. Mr. Wilson introduced Mr. Mark McMillan and Mr. Collin McDowell with Badger Meter, Inc. who addressed Council regarding the endpoint technology. Mr. McDowell reviewed the history of CDMA technology, and he pointed out CDMA endpoints operate on 3G networks which cellular carriers plan to discontinue. He explained an endpoint upgrade is required to move to current cellular networks. He reviewed trends in cellular, and he pointed out network carriers will discontinue 3G networks to make limited capacity and bandwidth available for the 5G buildout. He explained T-Mobile acquired Sprint in April and determined it would sunset the Sprint CDMA network at the end of 2021, which is earlier than anticipated. He stated the Customer Loyalty Upgrade Program would upgrade the system to the current technology for the longevity of a network meeting 5G standards, support new sensor offerings, and offer higher-resolution and 15-minute data interval reports to support leak and nonrevenue water reduction goals.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins clarified the water meter and endpoint are two different things. Mr. Wilson agreed, and he added the water meter and endpoint are two components that work together and can be replaced independently. Mayor Pro Tem Heggins asked about the lifespan of the endpoints and water meters. Mr. Wilson stated SRU is 4.5 years into the implementation project, and he explained the meters that were installed in the beginning are in the first five-year window of a 20-year expected life. He noted the lineup will not be perfect, but the water meters and endpoints can be changed independently. He explained both the water meter and endpoint contain batteries and at some point the batteries will expire.

Councilmember Post asked if the endpoints are pieces of hardware that are inside the water meter. Mr. McDowell explained the endpoint plugs into the water meter and is not part of the meter. Mr. McDowell then explained the network carrier wants to change the pipe that connects the endpoint to the software. Mr. Post commented the majority of the cost is for the installation. Mr. Wilson stated the cost is approximately 50/50 between meter installation and parts. Mr. Post indicated the decision before Council will help prepare SRU for the future, and he added if the change is not made it will get to the point where the technology is not supported and the data transmission will not take place. He clarified the upgrade will be required at some point. Mr. McDowell agreed.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins asked if funds for the project are included in the budget. Mr. Wilson noted staff is requesting a Fund Balance transfer. Mayor Pro Tem Heggins asked how the Fund Balance appropriation will affect citizens. City Manager Lane Bailey noted the Fund Balance for the SRU Fund is strong enough to absorb the costs associated with the replacements, and he does not think it will have an adverse effect on the water and sewer rates.

Mayor Alexander clarified the SRU Fund Balance is separate from the General Fund Balance. Mr. Bailey agreed. Mayor Alexander noted SRU saved approximately \$1 million several years ago which went back into the Fund Balance and will be used to meet the need. Mr. Wilson agreed, and he pointed out the situation was not something for which staff could adequately plan. He noted the network could be cut off at the first of the year and staff needs time to prepare before the installation can take place.

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to authorize a sole source purchase from Badger Meter, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$585,000 for cellular endpoints and associated extended warranties and adopt a Capital Project Ordinance in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the purchase and installation of advanced metering infrastructure endpoint upgrades. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins voted AYE, Councilmember Miller voted AYE, and Councilmember Post voted AYE. (4-0)

ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 29 at Page No. 72, and is known as Ordinance 2021-23.)

RECESS

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins requested Council take a five-minute recess.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

(a) Resolution Establishing Filing Fees for Municipal Elections

City Attorney Graham Corriher explained the Board of Elections contacted the City regarding its filing fees since there will be a separate mayoral election. He stated the City's filing fees have been set at \$10 since the 1980s and since there is a new position state law requires the City to establish its filing fee. He noted the proposed Resolution would establish the mayoral filing fee at \$10. He indicated the minimum filing fee is \$5 and the maximum filing fee is 1% of the annual salary for each council position. He noted staff recommends the filing fee remain \$10.

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to adopt a Resolution establishing filing fees for municipal elections to remain at \$10 for both mayor and Council. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins voted AYE, Councilmember Miller voted AYE, and Councilmember Post voted AYE. (4-0)

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH FILING FEES FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 16 at Page No. 6, and is known as Resolution 2021-06.)

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Lane Bailey had nothing to report to Council.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Post noted Friends of Rowan has designated about 20 organizations for matched funding. He indicated he thinks the City has been added to the program due to its Share2Care Program.

Councilmember Post stated the Self Help Credit Union takes a different approach to making loans to the underserved community and is looking for partners and resources to help identify potential buyers. He indicated it is a great local program to help those who have difficulty purchasing a home.

MAYOR PRO TEM COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins thanked staff for all it does for the City. She added staff does a great job presenting information to Council so it can make the complicated decisions it faces.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

Mayor Alexander stated she has worked with Mr. John Hope Bryant, Founder and CEO of Operation HOPE which operates in the community through First Horizons Bank. She added she reached out to First Horizon Bank President Bryan Jordan regarding the One Million Black businesses (1MBB) program created in 2018. She noted Salisbury would be the first small city in the USA to become involved in the program, and she indicated the only other city to embrace the program at this point is Memphis, Tennessee, which is a much larger city.

Mayor Alexander referenced the City's commitment, and she recognized other partners who have signed on:

- Livingstone College President Dr. Jimmy Jenkins and the Livingstone College team
- Salisbury NAACP President Gemale Black
- Rowan Economic Development Commission (EDC) Director Rod Crider
- Liaison to the Rowan County Chamber of Commerce Minority Business Council Mr. John Everett
- Mr. Claudie Johnson CEO of the Self Help Credit Union for the Charlotte region and partner with the City on the KIVA Program.

Mayor Alexander stated the City would be a champion of the program, and she added she is hopeful other partners will emerge to develop a coalition within the community that will commit to supporting new Black businesses in the City. She pointed out Salisbury will work to strategically create government procurement processes and other equitable development initiatives moving forward. She stated Council made a commitment to create an equitable city for all citizens and this is a step in the process.

Mayor Alexander explained Mr. Bryant created Operation HOPE more than 30 years ago and is now partnering with Shopify, which helps small businesses with retail and e-commerce platforms. She noted the goal of this program is to strengthen existing Black businesses, and encourage Black entrepreneurs and business owners to take their business ideas to the next level.

Mayor Alexander added Operation HOPE in partnership with Shopify is contributing a package of services worth approximately \$25,000 for each IMBB client to assist Black entrepreneurs who want to start an e-commerce business. She indicated with the partners already committed to the program it is possible to achieve the goals being set. She noted the coalition of partners would include cities and state, private and public companies, nonprofit government agencies, and philanthropist working together to support the IMBB initiative. She pointed out there are other opportunities in terms of religious groups. She added there is a lot of movement in this, and she is excited that Council is supportive of moving forward and finding out more information.

Mayor Alexander stated Operation HOPE was founded on financial literacy for the Black and Brown community. She noted First Horizons National Corporation Bank stated 2,500 individuals have gone through the Operation HOPE Program of Financial Literacy and then increased their credit scores which allowed them to buy a home or vehicle at a reasonable interest rate. She commented the City's commitment to 100 new businesses annually is obtainable.

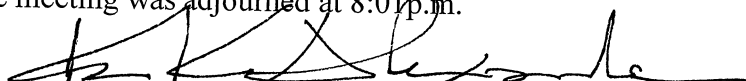
Mayor Pro Tem Heggins asked about the City's role in the program. Mayor Alexander explained she has acted as the convener, and the City is committing to reviewing its procurement processes and being inclusive regarding opportunities to do business with the City. Mayor Pro Tem Heggins stated it is a wonderful way to continue the work that has been started.

Councilmember Miller commented the City is acting as a convener and trying to make whatever work is done inclusive so everyone will have an opportunity to be a part of the economic environment. City Manager Lane Bailey explained it is another tool in the tool box that has no financial cost to the City.

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to support Mayor Alexander's signature on the commitment. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins voted AYE, Councilmember Miller voted AYE, and Councilmember Post voted AYE. (4-0)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Miller. All Council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.



Karen Alexander, Mayor



Kelly Baker, City Clerk